(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are two State Speed Post Centres at Itanagar and Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

Termination of the licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom

3833. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact, that the Attorney General had recommended the termination of the licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom on 30th October, 1999 due to non-compliance with the migration package for Private Operators as decided by Government on 6th July, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this recommendation was accepted and implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Three licences of M/s. Koshika Telecom (Bihar, Orissa and U.P.-West Circles) were terminated on 22nd May, 1999, prior to the formulation of the Migration Package. Opinion of the Attorney General for India (AG) in the matter of treatment of these terminated Cellular Circle licences, in the context of the Migration Package, was received on 30th October, 1999. The AG recommended restoration of the terminated licences and offering of migration package on certain conditions contained in this opinion and a subsequent supplementary opinion further clarifying certain issues in this regard.

The Government accepted the advice of AG and a package for restoration of the three terminated cellular licences and simultaneous migration to NTP-99 regime have been offered to M/s. Koshika under letters dated the 17th April,

2000. M/s. Koshika have furnished unconditional acceptance in this regard on 25th April, 2000.

Rural telephones in Assam

3834. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target set to provide rural telephones in the rural areas of Assam during the last five years and till date district-wise/year-wise, separately;

(b) the details of rural telephones which have been provided in rural areas of Assam during this period, district-wise/year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the target fixed for installation of rural telephones in hill districts of Assam has not been achieved during this period;

(d) if so, the details of remaining targets yet to be achieved in the above districts of Assam; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The district-wise targets/achievements of rural telephones provided in the rural areas of Assam during the last five years are given in the enclosed Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 92].

(c) No Sir. The targets for installation of rural telephones in hill districts of Assam i.e. NC Hill and Karbi Anglong have been fully achieved during the last five years as per the details given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 92].

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to para (c) above.

Revision of pay scales of Postal Assistants

3835. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for revision of pay scales of Postal Assistants of Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and